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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Anchorage, Alaska - Anchorage businessman Josef F. Boehm, 60, pleaded guilty today to conspiring to provide crack cocaine to underage Anchorage and Mat-Su teenagers in exchange for sexual favors. Boehm pleaded guilty to the top charge in the indictment, conspiring to distribute over 50 grams of crack cocaine to persons under 21 years of age. Boehm also admitted to conspiring to commit the crime of sex trafficking of children. Under the terms of the agreement, Boehm may be sentenced to more than 11 years in jail. Under federal sentencing guidelines, there is no parole. Boehm also agreed to forfeit his Oceanview home, where many of the activities alleged in the indictment took place.

The agreement also requires that Boehm pay restitution in the amount of \$1.2 million dollars into a trust fund for the benefit of the victims of his criminal conduct. The trust fund will allow victims to be compensated for expenses related to drug treatment, counseling, and related expenses incurred as a result of their victimization at the hands of Boehm and his co-defendants. In addition, the trust fund can be used to pay for educational and professional training expenses for the victims, which would not have been otherwise available under federal statutes if Boehm had been convicted after trial. Boehm will be required to fund the trust on or before his sentencing, scheduled to take place on February 11, 2005. Co-defendants Allen Bolling, 40, Leslie J. Williams, 40, and Bambi Tyree, 23 have pled guilty and are scheduled to be sentenced on January 21, 2005.

"This plea agreement achieves the best of all possible worlds for the interests of justice and for the young victims in this case. Boehm will receive a substantial sentence without the risks associated with a lengthy trial and appeals, which Boehm has agreed to waive. Young victims also avoid the traumatic experience of having to testify about their exploitation, and will have prompt access to resources that will help them," said United States Attorney Tim Burgess.

Burgess added, "Usually, when people commit crimes, the best the criminal justice system can do is punish the offender and occasionally have him repay the out of pocket expenses of the victims. This plea not only does that, but attempts to give the victims future opportunities for treatment, counseling, and even an education."

The case was investigated by the Anchorage Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was a joint effort of the United States Attorney's Office and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.

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